

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /141 R

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R 172243Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS

SUBJECT: PRESS QUERY RE MASMOUDI

1. FOLLOWING ARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO QUERIES
THURSDAY PRESS BRIEFING RE USG INVOLVEMENT IN MASMOUDI
REMOVAL:

Q. THE FORMER TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS THE REASON HE
IS THE FORMER AND NOT THE CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER IS BE-
CAUSE HE DOES NOT ENJOY US CONFIDENCE. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING
TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

A. THAT'S NOT TRUE AND I AM TOLD THAT WHILE HE WAS FOREIGN
MINISTER, THE AMERICAN MISSION IN TUNIS HAD VERY GOOD WORK-
ING RELATIONS WITH HIM. OBVIOUSLY WE DO NOT INTERFERE IN
THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THAT STATEMENT IS
NOT TRUE.

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Q. WHY WOULD HE MAKE IT?

A. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM.

Q. ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THE FELLOW WHO PROMOTED THE LIBYAN
DEAL?

A. HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TIME THAT WAS SIGNED.
YES.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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